

NH Audubon **Afield**



Stellar Season for NH's Bald Eagles

By Chris Martin, Senior Biologist

The recently completed 2016 Bald Eagle breeding season proves without a doubt that New Hampshire's state-listed threatened eagle population continues its robust recovery.

In 2016, we confirmed a record-high 56 territorial pairs of Bald Eagles in New Hampshire, up 24% in one year from 45 pairs in 2015.

This is more than double the 27 pairs we found five years ago. We also confirmed a record-high 42 pairs incubating, up 45% in one year from 29 pairs in 2015.

We confirmed a record-high 51 young fledged in 2016, up 19% from the 43 fledglings in 2015. Each of these categories sets a new post-DDT era high mark for Bald Eagle productivity in the Granite State. Monitoring data compiled by NH

Changing of the guard at recently hatched Moore Reservoir nest in April. Photo by Jack Dorsey.

"New Hampshire's breeding eagle population has been doubling in size every five years..."

Audubon show that New Hampshire's breeding eagle population has been doubling in size every five years over the past two decades—a dramatic recovery indeed.

Besides New Hampshire's statewide total, there are at least 11 more border-nesting eagle pairs (eight in Vermont along the Connecticut River and three in Maine). These pairs spend a good part of their time in New Hampshire, but since their nest trees are located in neighboring states we don't count them in NH's breeding season totals.

A grand total of 368 young Bald Eagles have fledged from Granite State nests since eagles started nesting here again nearly 30 years ago. More than 25% of those fledglings (94 birds) have

Continued on page 6

Enchanted Forest

October 21-22
McLane Center



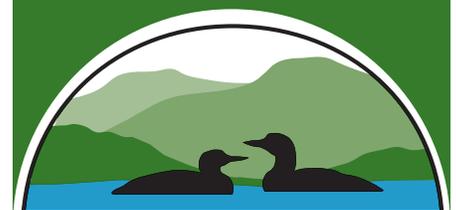
Enchanted Fall Festival

October 22
Massabesic Center

Twice the enchantment!
(see pages 8 and 9)

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Protecting New Hampshire's Natural Environment for Wildlife and for People



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FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

As I write this, today is exactly one month to the day after starting my journey with New Hampshire Audubon. It has been an extraordinary few weeks. I am still learning the depth and breadth of what NH Audubon offers to New Hampshire, and I could not be more excited and proud to be welcomed into this organization.

Last night I attended my first social event as President: a potluck with NHA volunteers and friends at Ash Cottage in Hebron. The views from the Cottage—overlooking the shoreline wetlands and northern bays of the lake under a continuous forested ridge—are stunning. On my way to Ash Cottage, I stopped at our Paradise Point Center. Nestled under majestic mature forest, the trails wind up and down along the ridges, from which you can see the natural shoreline.

After taking in the scenery, I was treated to a potluck with the supporters of the Center. They are a spirited group! Clearly, these friends and neighbors, many of whom have multi-generational family ties to Hebron, are used to laughs, inside jokes, and a pat-on-the-back familiarity. I was proud to see how the Newfound Center embodies NH Audubon’s investment in environmental protection and outreach, while honoring the deep spirit of community. Our work



has a strong social component that is so valuable.

NH Audubon, while protecting beautiful places, is really a people organization. Our relationships with partners, volunteers, and towns represent the essence of our work.

“NH Audubon, while protecting beautiful places, is really a people organization.”

Like the people in and around Newfound Lake I spoke with yesterday, I look forward to meeting more of our members and friends. It is clear to me from even this first gathering that NHA has a strong state-wide impact that starts at our towns. Newfound was an exceptional first place to start the journey.

Doug Bechtel
President

NH Audubon Grant Acknowledgements

Byrne Foundation

General support.

NH Charitable Foundation

General support.

McIninch Foundation

Support towards a new wood pellet boiler.

Madelaine von Weber Trust

Towards the new McLane Center raptor exhibit.

Davis Conservation Foundation

Support for the Thompson Sanctuary Boardwalk Trail.

Robin Colson Memorial Foundation

Bird-friendly buildings support.

NH Charitable Foundation

Conservation Research fund for Rusty Blackbirds.

ANNUAL MEETING & GATHERING

WITH OUR OWN MASSABESIC CENTER IN AUBURN AS THE BACKDROP, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A DAY OF EXPLORATION, LEARNING AND FRIENDSHIP.

This year's event features guided fieldtrips, keynote speaker Dr. Bernd Heinrich, and a chance to visit with NH Audubon's new President, Doug Bechtel. The Gathering will begin with morning field trips, followed by a buffet lunch, annual business meeting, silent auction, awards and honors, and a keynote address by ecologist and author Dr. Bernd Heinrich.



Dr. Heinrich is described as one of today's most insightful biologists, a hands-and-knees scientist, plus a captivating and renowned nature writer. His primary research has examined physiological and behavioral adaptations to the physical environment. Subjects include bee colonies, social behavior of ravens and the biology of running. His book titles include: *Mind*

of the Raven, The Homing Instinct, Bumblebee Economics, Hot-blooded Insects, The Nesting Season, and many more.

Dr. Heinrich has taught about and researched behavioral ecology at the University of California and University of Vermont. He was a Guggenheim and Harvard Fellow. We are honored to welcome Dr. Heinrich to our annual gathering to speak with us about his most recent book, *One Wild Bird at a Time* in which he shares day-to-day observations of individual wild birds, details of amazing behaviors and insights.

If you are unable to join us for the entire day but would like to hear Dr. Heinrich speak, you may purchase a "speaker ticket." Tickets must be reserved in advance. Please plan to arrive by 1:30pm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - SCHEDULE

9-11am	Field Trips and Programs (see side bar)
11:30am	Gather at Massabesic Center: Check-in, view exhibits, silent auction items
11:45am	Buffet Lunch, Silent Auction
12:15pm	Welcome
12:30pm	President's address by Doug Bechtel
1pm	Annual Business Meeting
1:30pm	Break: Refreshments, exhibits, mingle, silent auction time
1:45pm	Keynote address: Dr. Bernd Heinrich, " <i>One Wild Bird at a Time</i> "
2:45pm	Awards and Appreciations Tudor Richards: Ann and Roger Sweet Goodhue-Elkins: Davis Finch John Thalheimer Volunteer of the Year: Dennis Skillman and Warren Trested President's Award: Single Digits and Patricia Niswander
3:30pm	Last chance at Silent Auction, mingle and book signing
3:45pm	Silent Auction announcements
4pm	Departure

Preregistration by September 11th is required.

Sign up online, or contact Ruth Smith at rsmith@nhaudubon.org or 603-224-9909 ext. 313.

Hope to see you there!

Field Trips

Attendees may join any one of the following trips from 9-11am:

Education Sampler at Massabesic

Explore the pond, field and forest of the Massabesic grounds with Program Director Angie Krysiak. Level trails and easy walking, appropriate for kids and adults.

Waterworks Wanderings

Hike to Battery Point with John O'Neil from the Manchester Waterworks and volunteer Pete McVay to learn about the amazing history of Lake Massabesic. Level trails and easy walking.

Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary

Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, will share some of the wildlife, plants, and features of this unique natural area. A great trip for kids and families. Level trails and easy walking, along board walks and trails.

Paddle on Lake Massabesic

Join NHA's new President, Doug Bechtel and Senior Biologist Chris Martin for a paddling trip on Manchester's reservoir. Bring your own boat or rent one (\$10/boat).

Walk the Garden Paths

Enjoy the community garden plots, pollinator and rain gardens around the center. Jean Sweeney and other MAC volunteers will explain how the plantings have been established to help the environment. Easy walking.

Wildlife at the Abe Emerson Marsh

Bob Quinn will lead this trip through a mix of upland, shrub swamp and cattail marshes in search of migrating birds and other seasonal wildlife. Level trails and easy walking.

Be sure to note your field trip choice when registering for the day.

See more detail for each field trip on the website.

Hawk Migration is Underway Raptor Observatories Open Sept 1-Nov 15

By Phil Brown, Raptor Observatory Coordinator

The autumnal spectacle of raptor migration returns to the skies this September and is best enjoyed at NH Audubon's two raptor observatories, Pack Monadnock (Peterborough) and Carter Hill (Concord). At each site, a NH Audubon staff naturalist and a team of volunteers record migration data for 15 species of regularly-occurring birds of prey—hawks, eagles, falcons, and others—between September 1 and November 15. Staff and volunteers are also on hand to educate the public about raptor migration during school visits, formal education programs, and through the constant, casual learning and teaching opportunities that the observatories afford.

2015 was an exceptional year at the observatories. Relationships between NH Audubon and hosts, Miller State Park and Carter Hill Orchard, strengthened and grew; the level of community support continued to build (major sponsors included Ed Reilly Subaru, The Mountain Corporation, and the Gilbert Verney Foundation); and nearly 9,000 visitors witnessed migration at one of these two sites.

The Pack Monadnock Observatory set a single-season count record with 19,845 raptors, thanks to an incredible showing of broad-winged hawks, which, themselves, set a single-season record totaling over 16,000. Being able to document this incredible record proves the value of our observatories as a vital contributor to the international data gathered each year about raptor population trends. Our monitoring efforts become increasingly important as the Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill sites continue to persist and thrive, developing greater consistency and contributing a long-term dataset to the Hawk Migration

“This fall will feature free programs that focus on in-depth identification and understanding of migratory raptors, for both kids and adults.”

Association of North America (HMANA), a project partner.

This fall will feature free programs that focus on in-depth identification and understanding of migratory raptors, for both kids and adults, including the annual Raptor Rally (co-sponsored by NH Audubon and Project SEE), in which all of Concord's fourth graders will descend upon the Carter Hill Observatory to learn about raptors. Naturalists and volunteers will be on site to instruct students in raptor identification and life histories, and help them make the connections between raptors and environmental stewardship.

The ever-popular Raptor Release also returns in September during HMANA's International Hawk Migration Week, and features the release of a rehabilitated raptor at each site, live bird demonstrations, programs, and peak season raptor migration. The perennial Peak Migration Raptor ID Workshop returns to the Carter Hill Observatory on September 16 to coincide with the peak of Broad-winged hawk migration. The 'Big Sit', another annual event, is timed well with the peak of raptor diversity in early October, and it should be an excellent chance to tally a high total of overall bird species: the goal of this fun and competitive (with other sites) event.

For a closer look at NH Audubon's raptor observatories, including these events and others, links to past seasons' reports, and what to expect this fall, see <http://www.nh Audubon.org/get-outside/raptor-observatories>. Throughout the season, be sure to check daily reports and next day forecasts on each site's pages of www.hawkcount.org. Follow us on Facebook for daily updates and sightings.

There is much reason to support NH Audubon's goals of continued monitoring of our raptor populations and educating diverse audiences. Your support will help us carry out these goals effectively.

For information about becoming a raptor observatory sponsor, please email at pbrown@nh Audubon.org or call 224-9909 ext. 334.



Juvenile Red-tailed hawk kites during its migration. Photo by Rough-legged Photography.



Sharp-shinned hawk dives on the decoy owl at Pack Monadnock. Photo by Rough Legged Photography.

RAPTOR OBSERVATORY EVENTS

Carter Hill Raptor Observatory Peak Migration Workshop

September 16, 10am-2pm

Cost: \$20/pp

Join Coordinator of NH Audubon's Raptor Observatories, Phil Brown, at Carter Hill Orchard's 'Orchard Room' for a slideshow introduction and refresher of raptor identification and life history. We will then join the Interpretive Naturalist on the hawkwatch platform and partake in some sky-watching during the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration! In addition to Broad-winged, favorable winds should bring Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, Ospreys and Bald Eagles into view. Bring binoculars (we have a few loaners on hand), water, lunch and sun protection.

Contact: Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 ext. 334 to RSVP as space is limited.



Education Director Kevin Wall releases a juvenile Broad-winged hawk during 2015 Release Day.

Photo by Rough Legged Photography.

Big Sit Events

October 8, 9am-5pm

Pack Monadnock Observatory
Carter Hill Observatory

Join fellow hawk watchers and birders for the annual 'Big Sit' event—a tally of all bird species from the raptor observatories. Come for an hour or stay the whole day and lend your eyes to the skies.

This event is lots of fun with a friendly, yet competitive spirit, and all levels of interest and ability are welcome to join.

Bring binoculars, a field guide, food and drink, and dress for the weather.

A rain/fog date is set for the following day.

Carter Hill Orchard

carterhillapples.com

Our host site in Concord offers a classic pick-your-own apples experience, as well as a full farmstand complete with freshly baked goods.

Miller State Park

nhstateparks.org

Host of our Pack Monadnock site in Peterborough, offers some of the finest mountain views in southern NH and an auto road to the summit, as well as premier hiking.

Both observatories offer accessibility options, self-guided interpretation, and are free and open to the public from 9am-5pm daily. NH Audubon staff or volunteers are present to count migrants and to educate the public at both sites during all but the most challenging weather conditions.

Bringing a school group or other large group to witness and learn about migration is a fine idea. Please plan to contact the host sites in advance to reserve a time slot.



Migrating Northern Harrier.

Photo by Rough Legged Photography.

Raptor Festival and Release Weekend

September 24, 9am-5pm: Pack Monadnock Observatory, release at 1pm

September 25, 9am-5pm: Carter Hill Observatory, release at 4pm

Join NH Audubon for a special send-off: the release of a rehabilitated migratory bird of prey! This annual event coincides with peak migration, so bring your binoculars and prepare to witness a spectacle.

Festivities will occur all day long at the observatory as we celebrate International Hawk Migration Week. Arrive well in advance of the release time to ensure a parking spot and have time for festivities.

Rain or fog may cancel the hawk release. Check NH Audubon's Facebook page for updates.

See page 11 for additional chapter hawk watching outings. Visit nhaudubon.org for outing details.

In Memoriam

New Hampshire Audubon is honored to receive donations in memory of friends and relatives who have passed. These gifts are a valuable contribution to the work we do for wildlife and conservation.

Thoughtful gifts were made by the following individuals and businesses:

In memory of Eleanor L. Wheeler:

Patricia Zarmakupis

In memory of Hagen D. Esty-Lennon:

Grazyna Medynski

In memory of Hilde Bretchneider:

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Barbara A. Natale

Robert A. Quinn

Anne E. St. Cyr

In memory of Wendy S. Schorr:

Roy E. Bell

Barbara Prehodka

Honorary Gifts

In honor of Single Digits, host of the online Peregrine Falcon Cam:

Pamela A. Ballin

been raised just in the past two breeding seasons! Highlights from 2016 include discovery of eight new pairs with nests in Barrington, Bradford, Lebanon, Meredith, Milan, Milton, Pembroke and Rochester. Several additional pairs have been found in other areas, but nest locations remain unknown. This year we documented three eagle nests—in Center Harbor, Hinsdale, and Manchester—that fledged three young apiece.

Volunteers and staff strive to determine the banded status of our breeding eagles. In 2016, we tallied 113 known territorial eagles. It's not always possible to see the leg bands—eagles often perch with legs hidden—but we did determine the banded status of 53 (47%) of them. For the 53 birds whose



Two aggressive and hungry eagle chicks await fish delivery at Moore Reservoir in late June. Photo by Jack Dorsey.

banded status was determined, 25 (47%) were unbanded, while 28 (53%) had leg bands. We positively identified 17 of these individuals, ranging in age from 4-12 years old in 2016. Of those 17 birds, 47% originally came from nests in Massachusetts, 29% from New Hampshire, 18% from Maine, and 6% from Connecticut.

Vermont and New

Hampshire share a beautiful 275-mile border along the Connecticut River. While there was only one breeding pair on

the main stem of the Connecticut River between the two states in 2000, the river now supports at least 19 Bald Eagle breeding pairs immediately along its shores (and there are at least 12 more pairs located elsewhere on the river's major tributaries).

For the past five years, wildlife biologists from both states have been able to share expertise and work closely together throughout the Connecticut River watershed thanks to a grant from TransCanada's Community Investment program. We appreciate the key role TransCanada has played in

promoting regional eagle recovery efforts. Unfortunately, we are near the end of this particular corporate grant, so we are looking for new partners to step forward as we continue our exciting work on the Connecticut River and elsewhere across New Hampshire.

NH Audubon coordinates statewide monitoring and management of Bald Eagles in partnership with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program, grant support provided by TransCanada for eagle restoration in the Connecticut River watershed, and support from individual donors. We also receive field

assistance from dozens of dedicated volunteers.

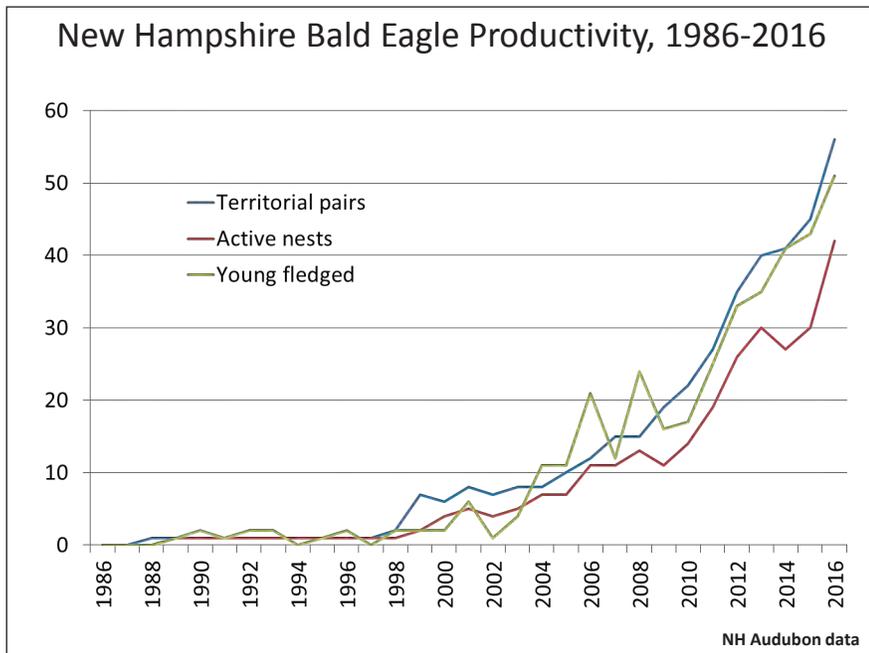
Thanks to everyone for your interest, partnership, and continued support!



Wantastiquet trio in June. Photo by Michael LaClair.

“A grand total of 368 young Bald Eagles have fledged from Granite State nests since eagles started nesting here again nearly 30 years ago.”

“We confirmed a record-high 56 territorial pairs... up 24% in one year from 45 pairs in 2015. This is more than double the 27 pairs we found five years ago.”



Three different ways to measure eagle productivity—all showing the same strong upward trend.

Schoolyard Nature Explorations: Eight Grants Awarded

by Hilary Chapman, Education Specialist

What are teachers doing to excite and engage students in local nature? Exploring their schoolyard habitats!

Many schools have green spaces and outdoor areas that can serve as “living classrooms.” Studies show that outdoor nature-based studies can improve student achievement and well-being.

This spring NH Audubon education staff learned just how many exciting schoolyard projects are going on around the state by offering Schoolyard Exploration Grants. These grants are possible thanks to a cooperative agreement with the New England Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Our goals in awarding these grants are to support schools that want to connect curriculum with nature studies and to foster future stewards of the land and community.

Children’s Herbarium

DJ Bakie School, Kingston

In partnership with the Kingston Historical Museum, the Conservation Commission and the University of New Hampshire, students and teachers are creating a herbarium of plant specimens for the town and school.

Butterfly Garden

McDonough Elementary, Manchester

Students are revitalizing school gardens to attract and study urban wildlife, and implementing a school-wide composting project to teach their school community about the importance of recycling and composting.



Butterfly Garden

Henry Wilson Elementary, Manchester

In a school mentoring program between first and fifth graders, inner city students are working with teachers to design, create and monitor school butterfly gardens.

Children at Namaste Children’s House carry plants to the new garden for planting. Photo by Sara Hil.

Native Plant Garden Namaste Children’s House, Goffstown

Teachers and students are creating a native plant oasis for wildlife in the school’s urban setting. Students researched the plants, picked them out at a nursery and planted them.



Warren Village School summer campers proudly pose near one of 4 new native plant beds with school staff, parents, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and NH Audubon volunteers.

Outdoor Classroom

Deerfield Community School, Deerfield

Staff and students are building an outdoor classroom in the school’s forest for studying the pond, stream, and forest.

Pollinators Paradise

Monroe Consolidated School, Monroe

As part of the established outdoor classroom, staff and students are adding a pollinator garden and pollinator wall.

Native Plant Garden

Warren Village School, Warren

Students created a native plant garden that is being integrated with the school curricula, after school and summer school programs, to offer daily opportunities to connect deeply with the natural world.

Outdoor Classroom

Gilbert Hood Middle School, Derry

School staff and students are creating an outdoor learning environment where the dynamic changes of nature can be observed throughout the year.

Schools receiving grants may also request on-the-ground project support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, and program or curriculum support from New Hampshire Audubon staff. The grant application period for 2017 will open in early winter. We'll post details on the website, in future publications and on social media. Visit our website for more information regarding the grant requirements at <http://www.nh Audubon.org/learn/schoolyard-habitat-exploration-grants>.



In addition to being a program center, the McLane Center is home to NH Audubon's central operations. It is located on the Silk Farm Sanctuary in Concord. Sanctuary trails are open dawn to dusk daily, as are the raptor mews. The Center is open Monday–Friday 9am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm.

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Garden Visions Photo Exhibit

September 1-October 31
 Artist's Reception September 8, 5-7pm
 Photography Workshop October 16, 1-3pm

Melissa M. Fraser enjoys photographing all types of subjects, particularly in an abstract way. Using iPhone and creative camera techniques, Melissa takes a different, abstract look at the beauty of a dying sunflower patch and channels her inner Monet to create and bring out a unique view of Monet's Garden in Giverny, France.

Want to learn more about taking pictures on your smart phone? Join Melissa for her October 16 workshop! Details on website.

Creatures of the Night

September 20, 6:30-8pm
 Cost: \$7M/\$9NM, ages 12 and under free

How do wild animals function in the dark? Meet three live creatures of the night (a porcupine, bat and a special surprise) with a Squam Lakes Natural Science Center naturalist and learn surprising details of their adaptations, which make them well-suited for night life.

Bogs and Fens: New England's Most Pristine Ecosystems

October 11, 7-8:30pm
 Cost: \$5M/\$7NM

Ecologist, researcher and professor, Dr. Ronald Davis shares his knowledge and new book, *Bogs and Fens: A Guide to the Peatland Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, which describes 25 peat-based wetlands that can be visited by the public.

NH's Wild History: 350 Years of NH Wildlife

November 3, 7-8:30pm
 Cost: \$5M/\$7NM

Discover how a changing landscape has impacted the wildlife that has inhabited this region. Join NH Audubon and UNH Cooperative Extension Covert Volunteer Bill Coder as he guides us through 350 years of stories and images of the past that give meaning to the present.



Mountain Snow Photo Exhibit

November 1-December 31

Joe Klementovich captures imagery of snow and mountains in this wintry exhibit. Traveling on various climbing adventures with a small point and shoot camera got Joe hooked on creating better and better images to tell the stories of each outing. *"Being close to the mountains, forests and oceans of New England has given me a constant source of inspiration and ever changing backdrop for my photography."*



Birds and Beans Coffee House David Surette and Susie Burke

October 6, 7-8:30pm
 Tickets: \$15/M; \$18/NM. Seating is limited. Tickets may be reserved by calling 224-9909 ext. 313 or booking online at nhaudubon.org

Together since 1988, Susie and David blend contemporary, traditional and original folk and acoustic music. Burke's vocal style is pure and heartfelt. Matched by Surette's fluid fretwork on mandolin, bouzouki and guitar, their sound is both stunning and magical. To learn more about Susie and David visit: burkesurette.com. Birds and Beans bird-friendly coffee and refreshments will be for sale.

ENCHANTED FOREST

October 21 and 22, 5-8pm
 Cost: \$6.50M/\$9.50NM
 Group rates available for scout and youth groups: \$140/time slot, 15 people minimum

Follow the glowing jack-o-lantern trail into the nighttime forest. Encounter larger than life creatures and characters as they present skits about mysterious activities in nature.



Tigger leads a group through the forest during last year's event. Photo by Tim Acerno.

Gather around a campfire for engaging stories. Enjoy indoor seasonal games, refreshments and activities. This is a family-friendly event for ages 4-adult. Rain or shine – skit sites are covered.

Preregistration is required. Call 224-9909 to register for a specific day and time slot. This popular event sells out, so be sure to sign up early.



Located on an historic farm site, the Center is bordered by 130 acres of wildlife sanctuary that includes more than five miles of trails that lead to Lake Massabesic. The Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm; sanctuary trails are open dawn to dusk daily.
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Enchanted Fall Festival

October 22, 4-8pm
Cost: \$5M/\$10NM; Families \$15M/\$25NM

We are pleased to announce the return of our 9th Annual Enchanted Fall Festival! The event will feature a tour that walks you through the Enchanted Forest and presentations about 'spooky' animals. Visitors will also be able to enjoy live bluegrass music, a bonfire, live animals, face painting, games and crafts, refreshments and much more.

Feel free to come in costume!

Pre-registration is required to sign up for a tour time; online at nhaudubon.org or by phone at 603-668-2045.

Fall Art Exhibits

10th Annual NH Wild Photo Contest:
See this year's winning photos, Oct. 4- Dec. 4.

Not Just Feathers: wildlife paintings by Mimi Wiggin and Susan Parmenter, on display now through Oct. 1.

Nature Cafe

Fridays, 7-8:30pm
Cost: \$5 per person, Free for Massabesic Volunteers

Come join us once each month at Massabesic Center to enjoy coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and delicious desserts while learning about our natural environment.

Sept. 9: NH's Peregrine Falcons

Chris Martin will discuss more than 30 years of peregrine falcon population recovery in New Hampshire, including pairs nesting on our wilderness cliffs and in our largest cities.

Oct. 28: All About Bats

Help us celebrate Bat Week 2016, Oct. 24-31. Bats are fascinating creatures! They are the only mammal that has achieved true flight. Discover what three UNH graduate students from Dr. Jeff Foster's lab are finding out about bats. We will hear from Devon O'Rourke, Katherine Gillman, and Meghan Ange.

Junior Explorers

Every Other Wednesday, 10-11:30am
Leader: Kelly Dwyer; Ages 7-12
Cost: \$12M/\$15NM per class

Homeschool science classes and workshops for school-aged children to study the natural world:

- Sep 7: Bird Characteristics
- Sep 21: Habitat Examination
- Oct 5: Bird Identification
- Oct 19: Bird Communication
- Nov 2: The Role of Birds
- Nov 30: Challenges Facing Birds Today

Wee Wonders

Every Other Wednesday, 10-11:30am
Leader: Kim Murphy; Ages 4-6
Cost: \$12M/\$15NM per class

Nature-based preschool programs with hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery:

- Sep 7: Birds of a Feather
- Sep 21: Of Beaks and Feet
- Oct 5: Habitats of Birds
- Oct 19: Bird Talk
- Nov 2: Mysteries of Migration
- Nov 30: Turkey Days

Dragonfly Workshop

Sept. 10, 10am-12pm
Cost: \$7M/\$10NM; Families \$15M/\$25NM

Join Program Director Angie Krysiak for a slide show about these beautiful and beneficial insects, then head outside to learn the art of catching dragonflies! We'll learn tricks to catching and handling, as well as how to identify some of our most common species.

Coastal Birding

Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16, 9am-2:30pm
Cost: \$6M/\$9NM

Enjoy birding the coast with JoAnn O'Shaughnessy. Meet at the Hampton Beach State Park parking lot at 9am and carpool from there to coastal hot spots. Lunch is not provided, but the group will stop at a local restaurant to cap off the morning's adventure.

Fall Nature Walk

Oct. 8, 10am-12pm
Cost: \$7M/\$10NM; Families \$15M/\$25NM

Join us for a gentle walk on our trails to enjoy fall foliage and learn how nature prepares for winter. Discuss the changing position of the sun in the sky, the fall migration of birds and much more.

Intro to Pelagic Wildlife

Oct. 8, 3-4pm
Cost: \$5; free for those on the Pelagic Trip

Jon Woolf presents a slideshow about some of the wildlife you might see just off NH's coast.

Pelagic Trip

Oct. 9, 8am-5pm
Cost: \$70M/\$90NM

Spend the day at sea aboard the MV Granite State, searching for pelagic seabirds, whales, dolphins, and more.

Live Birds of Prey

Nov. 12, 10-11am and 11:30am-12:30pm
Cost: \$8M/\$10NM; Families \$15M/\$30NM

Get a close-up look at a live Bald Eagle or American kestrel and other birds of prey with this outstanding presentation by Tom Ricardi, a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist.

Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

September 6-November 5



Order a beautiful, fragrant wreath and support NH Audubon's education programs! Our volunteers carefully decorate each wreath in all natural materials which adds to their beauty.

Find order forms posted on our website, or call MAC at 603-668-2045.



The Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitor's Center is located at Exit 6 off Interstate 293 in Manchester, NH. The Center is open Monday–Saturday 9am–5pm.
4 FLETCHER ST • MANCHESTER, NH • 603-626-3474

Advance registration with payment required for all programs unless otherwise noted.



Dragonfly larvae

River Bug Festival

September 24
10am-3pm
Cost: \$3/person or \$6/family
No registration required

Discover the many species of underwater insects that live in the Merrimack River. Observe these bugs up close and learn how to identify them using the Creek Critters app. The day will include aquatic insect crafts, games, exploration and identification. Vote for your favorite river bug to win in the “Most Loved Bug” category of 2016!



Great horned owl

Eyes on Owls

November 5
1-2:15pm
Cost: \$10/person or \$25/family
(Fee does not cover extended family)

Learn all about New Hampshire's owls, what they look like, where they might be found and best of all, see these wonderful birds of the night up close. Hooting lessons included! Marcia and Mark Wilson will be our expert presenters.

Location: Eversource Five Rivers Auditorium, Energy Park, 780 Commercial Street, Manchester, NH 03101

Family Fun Nights

Fridays, 6:30-8pm
Cost: \$8/family

Family Fun Nights are for all ages and focus on Merrimack River ecology. Engaging facts and stories are followed by group activities and open crafts.

Just Ducky: September 16

Discover some of the amazing adaptations of our common floating friends, the ducks!

Bear Necessities: September 30

Hear what NH's Black bears need to survive, and learn how to encourage wild bear and humans to be “respectful neighbors” to one another.

Who's Hooved in NH: October 14

Deer and moose are two of our largest and most amazing mammals. Using skulls, pelts, and more, we'll explore some of their unique adaptations.

Going Batty: October 28

Become familiar with these charismatic critters as we play games and discuss bat habits, habitat and the challenges they face today.

What's Up for Dinner: November 4

Did you know that owls cough up “pellets” after a meal? Learn all about owl eating habits and dissect a real pellet!

Native American Harvest: November 18

What kinds of foods did the Abenaki people of this area grow and gather long ago? Participate in some of their preparations yourself and make a cornhusk doll to take home!

Saturday Nature Seekers

Saturdays, 11am-12pm
Cost: \$8/family

Do you and your kids wish for opportunities to learn about nature but have trouble finding the time? Try these short and sweet mini-programs and nature-based activities. Discover something new every month!

Bird Migration: September 3, 10, 17

Leaves of Change: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Terrific Turkeys: November 12, 19



Participants in this summer's River Exploration program. Photo by Emily Johnson.

Homeschool Discovery Programs

PROJECT-BASED RIVER STUDY Thursdays, 10am-12pm

Cost: \$10/child, Ages: 4 and up

We will start by learning the cultural history, ecology and current status of the Merrimack River and its watershed. We will then work with students to develop river-based projects guided by the group's knowledge and specific interests.

*October 13 - Merrimack River Watershed
Nov. 10 - Cultural History and River Use*

MERRIMACK RIVER LIFE Thursdays, 10-11:30am

Cost: \$10/child, Grades: 1 and up

From algae to fish to river otters, discover how plants and animals eke out a living in and around the Merrimack River. Each month we will focus on a particular group of river organisms through hands-on exploration and outdoor discovery.

*October 20 - Merrimack River Wildlife
November 17 - River Fish*

CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

Labor Day Fall Warblers

Monday, Sept. 5, 8am-12pm

Warbler walk along several miles of roads and easy trails through various habitats.

Elm Brook Park

Saturday, Sept. 10, 7am-12pm

A great place to study fall migrants in a variety of habitats, especially the world's only Dendroica Alley, home of waves of warblers up close.

Sparrow Round-Up!

Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30-11am

Fourteen species of sparrows have been seen at this Concord spot, more than any single location in the state, including Clay-colored and Vesper.

Fall Foliage and Canoe Birding on the Merrimack River

Thursday, Oct. 13, 8am-3pm

Bring your canoe or kayak for an afternoon of drifting down the Merrimack River from Boscawen to Penacook as we look for birds along the way.

November Challenge

Nov. 5-6

For the last eight years, Concord area birders and folks from farther afield have gathered on the first weekend of November to see how many species we can find within the city limits. Birders of all skill levels are welcome to participate.

Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge

Thursday, Nov. 17, 7-9pm

Join Bob Quinn for a talk on the human story behind this spectacular place protected by special people.

LAKES REGION CHAPTER

Expedition to the Forbidden Island

Thursday, Sept. 15, 7-9pm

Pam Hunt shares stories of Cuba's history both natural and cultural, from her January visit to the island.

Primeval Forest of New Hampshire

Thursday, Oct. 20, 7-9pm

Join Michael Cline of Tin Mountain Conservation Center for this Lakes Region Chapter Program.

MASCOMA CHAPTER

Annual Hawk Migration Watch

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10am-12pm

Watch the wonderful fall hawk migration. Past outings have produced views of

kettling broad-winged hawks as well as bald eagles, osprey and other fall migrants.

Bedell Bridge Bird Walk

Saturday, Oct. 1, 7-9am

Blake Allison and George Clark explore a diverse array of habitats that lead to nearly 30 species recorded on last fall's outing.

Richmond Conservation Land

Saturday, Oct. 15, 7-9:30am

Join Jeff MacQueen on an exploration of this recently conserved area at the Jacob's Brook outlet in Orford. Several different habitats are found there, and we will be searching for migrating waterfowl as well as some late-moving land birds.

Rise and Fall of the Timber Rattlesnake

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7-9pm

Meet naturalist and author Ted Levin, who'll share his new book America's Snake, and his wry humor in discussing the maligned Timber Rattlesnake.

NASHAWAY CHAPTER

Alaska!

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7-9pm

Steve Bennett and Zeke Cornell will share photographs and stories of their recent birding trip to Alaska.

Pack Monadnock Observatory

Saturday, Sept. 24, 8am-2pm

Raptor migration watch at the observatory in Miller State Park.

Birds in Our Backyard

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7-9am

Deanne Fortnam shares photos mainly from her own backyard in Nashua, with images that will be sure to thrill and amaze you.

Pickering Ponds

Saturday, Oct. 22, 7:30am-12:30pm

Join us as we hike the 2+ miles of trails around the two Pickering Ponds and the Cocheco River.

Odiorne Point and the NH Coastline

Saturday, Oct. 22, 7:30am-12:30pm

Join us as we hike the 2+ miles of trails around the two Pickering Ponds and the Cocheco River.

SEACOAST CHAPTER

Beginner Bird Walk Series

Pickering Ponds: Sept. 7, 8-9am

City park trails along the Cocheco River provide habitat for migrant songbirds and waterfowl.

Chapter events are free unless noted otherwise.

Stafford County Farm: Sept. 18, 8am-12pm

Explore the Don Black Trail and the hedgerows around the fields of the conserved property (good for sparrows in fall).

Urban Forestry Center: Sept. 25, 8am-12pm

Join Jim Sparrell and Katie Towler for a walk around the Urban Forestry Center looking for migrant songbirds at this coastal hotspot.

Birds and Beers

Saturday, Sept. 10, 8am-12pm

Join Ben Griffith for a trip down the coast including a bird walk (and brewery tour) around the grounds of the Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton.

Pelagic Trip

Monday, Sept. 12

Cost: \$70

All day trip out of Rye Harbor aboard the MV Granite State.

Birding in Columbia

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7:30-9pm

Dana and Bob Fox share trip highlights ranging from the seashore to the Andes and Santa Marta mountains.

World End Pond Paddle

Saturday, Oct. 1, 7am-12pm

Bring your canoe or kayak for a paddle around hotspot World End Pond with Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena. Nearly 200 species of birds have been recorded on and around the pond.

Coastal Migration Birding

Saturday, Oct. 8, 8am-12pm

Join Steve Mirick on a fall migration walk around Odiorne and then birding south along the New Hampshire coast.

Birding Alaska

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30-9pm

Steve Bennett shares highlights from his three week birding and nature tour of Nome, the Pribilof Islands, Denali National Park and beyond.

Maine Coast Birding

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 8am-5pm

Explore Perkins Cove, Cliff House, Nubble Light, Long Sands Beach and Sea Point Beach. For final date and info see the chapter web site at <http://www.seacoastchapter.org/field-trips>.

Nature of Our National Parks

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 7:30-9pm

The National Park Service is celebrating its Centennial in 2016. This program reviews the history of our national park system and why parks were protected.

FOR COMPLETE EVENT DETAILS, VISIT NHAUDUBON.ORG



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Be the Early Bird!

Shop NH Audubon's Nature Store

November 25
10am-5pm



BLACKBIRD FRIDAY SALE

GREAT BUYS — Members receive 20% off all purchases.

Unique items for the nature lover: jewelry, cards, games, stuffed animals (see the singing Audubon birds above) adult and children's books, hand puppets, Nikon binoculars and more.

THE NATURE STORE, 84 SILK FARM RD, CONCORD
HOURS: M-F 10 TO 5, SAT. 10 TO 4

Save the Date:

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, December 10
10am-3pm

Book Sale and Craft Fair in addition to all the wonderful nature-based store items.

Members receive 20% off all purchases.